

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for measuring irregularities on the outer surface of an article employs  
5 an apparatus to obtain qualitative information regarding a first portion of the outer  
surface of the article, which can be used to generate a visual representation of a first  
portion of the outer surface of the article. Then, the article is moved by a  
predetermined amount, and the apparatus is again used to generate a visual  
representation of a second portion of the surface of the article. This process is  
10 repeated to obtain a plurality of visual representations that together span across a  
predetermined amount of the surface of the article. Then, the plurality of visual  
representations are processed to generate a single comprehensive enlarged visual  
representation of a relatively large surface area of the article, which is preferably  
shaded, colored, or otherwise highlighted to illustrate the irregularities that are formed  
15 therein. The single comprehensive enlarged visual representation can be used to  
analyze the nature of such irregularities.